The TA would help in identifying the projects, which will be in three phases, to be financed by the ADB. The first phase of the project is likely to cover the cities of Aizawal, Gangtok, Agartala, Kohima and Shillong.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Handing over of Oil Deposits

†1246. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a British Company has struct oil deposits in Rajasthan during January to March, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new oil deposits are proposed to be handed over to a Government company for commercial exploitation; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and to what extent it would improve total yearly indigenous production of crude as against total yearly demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, M/s. Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s. Cairn Energy Plc., UK) has reported 9 oil discoveries in block RJ-ON-90/1 in Rajasthan including two commercial discoveries at Mangia and NA-1 in January, 2004 and in March, 2004 respectively.

(c) No such proposal has been made by the operator.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

From the discoveries made and based on current assessment, the 4 discoveries namely Mangla, NA, Saraswati and Rageshwari are expected to produce oil at a peak rate of about 3 million tonnes per annum for a plateau period of four years, the yearly consumption of crude oil during the year 2003-04 was about 119 million metric tonnes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.